



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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WOMAN INDICTED FOR VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY FRAUD

PHOENIX – A federal grand jury in Phoenix has returned a one count indictment against Dolly A. Speck, 59, of Mesa, Ariz. for a violation of Theft of Public Money. Speck made her initial appearance in U.S. District Court on Friday, July 13.

The indictment alleges that Speck illegally received and converted to her own use more than \$113,000 from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs between November 1999 and February 2007. The indictment further alleges that the money was intended as disability benefits for Robert M. Speck, who died in November 1999. Speck entered a not guilty plea at her arraignment and was released on her own recognizance pending a September 5, 2007 trial date before United States District Court Judge Frederick J. Martone.

A conviction for Theft of Public Money carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine or both. In the event of a conviction, Judge Martone will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining the actual sentence.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the Special Agents of the Office of the Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs. The prosecution is being handled by Richard I. Mesh, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-770-01-PHX-FJM
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-164(Speck)

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